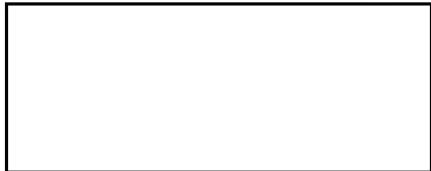


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24 January 1956

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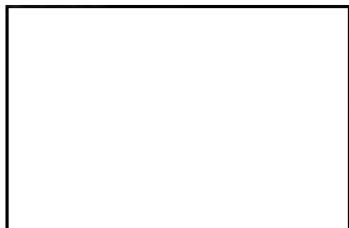
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1. THE BOMBAY RIOTS



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Following a week of rioting in Bombay and other cities of India, the Congress Party executive committee, which frequently speaks for the government of India, announced on 23 January that the government would not alter its decision to divide Bombay state into three new states--namely, Bombay City, Maharashtra, and Gujarat--as part of the plan to revise state boundaries throughout India along linguistic lines.

This decision is not likely to be altered unless violence increases throughout India, in which case the government might suspend all efforts at reorganization.

In dividing Bombay state, the government would accede to the desires of Mahrattis in the south and Gujeratis in the north for independent states of their own. At the same time, by creating a separate state of Bombay City, the government hoped to end bitter disputes between Mahrattis and Gujeratis for possession of the city as capital of their respective states.

Actually, it appears that the government's plan to divide one of the richest states in the country would bring it no obvious benefit. Moreover, the announcement of the plan has provided the Communists with an issue that they are able to exploit to the discredit of the Congress Party. It seems doubtful that the Congress Party can maintain in the three new states the organization and loyalty which previously gave Bombay the reputation of being the best administered and politically the second most influential state in India.

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3. FRENCH ARMY IN ALGERIA SUFFERS LARGE LOSSES

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Heavy fighting in eastern Algeria in the last few weeks resulted in about 400 French army dead and wounded,

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Although the French encircled some groups of rebels, a Moroccan regiment in the French army permitted the bulk of the Algerian rebels and their leaders to escape. All tribes in the locality are said to have joined the rebels, and sabotage of communications has increased.

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The rebels have excellent intelligence on French troop movements, while the French are unable to obtain advance information on rebel activities.

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Comment

the Algerian situation is worsening.

News reports, which are based on French press releases, however, continue to emphasize rebel casualties and play down French military difficulties and losses.

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4. NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN

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Ivan F. Shpedko, the new Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, served in Kabul from 1949 to 1953 as senior counselor and chargé at the Soviet embassy and is believed to have been in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow since then. Since the USSR has publicly supported Afghanistan and India against Pakistan, his reception by the Pakistani government is likely to be cool.

Should the USSR, however, offer Pakistan economic and technical aid, the growing feeling in Pakistan that neutrality pays better dividends than firm adherence to the West would probably cause government leaders to give consideration to the offer in the hope of obtaining stronger support from the West.

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